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From the CEO's Desk



Dear Partners,

Corporate Responsibility, to us, is all those issues of fairness, ethics and social commitment that have grown so prominent in public debate on the production of consumer goods over the past years. Corporate Responsibility is the moral attitude a company brings to its activities. Which, for us, also means addressing the more critical voices and the more controversial side effects of our core travel business.

The Company was recently awarded the Bird Express TravelWorld Award for its CSR initiative in India. The India initiative included Child Protection workshops which were conducted in Goa and Cochin in May 2009 to sensitize hotel

This award underlines a key facet of our "reliability" core value: Kuoni always acts in accordance with high moral and ethical standards. It is a proud moment for all of us to be recognised as a part of a company that not only works at delivering shareholder value, it is also committed to being a good Corporate Citizen.

Come explore with us.

Regards,

Dipak Deva



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Stay At *Swissôtel Kolkata*

Swissôtel Kolkata is a contemporary deluxe hotel located in New Town, one of Kolkata's fastest-growing new areas, just 3 kms away from the International Airport. Swissôtel Kolkata has a range of 147 elegantly designed guest rooms from the generously proportioned Classic room to the luxurious Jacuzzi Suite and a large open-air terrace with a Jacuzzi. Swissôtel Kolkata is a combination of imaginative and contemporary design with a comprehensive range of amenities to ensure your comfortable stay.

Taj Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad

This beautiful property is a stunning Baroque palace with dramatic interiors, situated on top of a hill overlooking the inspiring Golconda Fort and the domes and minarets of the old city below. Nestled amidst unique themed gardens, Taj Falaknuma Palace is a rare blend of Italian and Tudor architecture. The exquisite rooms and suites were once the private chambers of the Nizam, the royal family, which are complete with every convenience – from state-of-the-art amenities to a palace butler. Sample a selection of royal Hyderabadi specialties, or savour the finest Italian cuisine. Dine beneath the stars or indulge in a sumptuous breakfast spread at the al fresco Gol Bungalow. A colonial experience unfolds at the verandah with high tea, while the palace bar is ideal for cocktails. The palace is a sublime setting - perfect for enchanting weddings and memorable receptions.

Holiday Inn, Mumbai International Airport

Holiday Inn Mumbai International Airport is the first of its kind. What makes this 225 room hotel a perfect business and holiday destination, is the presence of wide variety of spa treatments and hotel's roof-top infinity pool for the guests to rejuvenate themselves, which is coupled with a fully-equipped business center along with conferencing facilities and expansive banqueting facilities, to take care of business activities. Moreover, the property's close proximity to both the international and domestic airports is an added benefit. An all day dining restaurant with seven unique interactive live stations, 72 – the lobby bar, Saptami Express – Mumbai's newest Deli are some of its added features.



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Lifestyle Art Spots in India's Capital

In Delhi art has become good work if you can get it. But if million-dollar sculptures are out of your league, you can still admire the art at one of the series of new spots around the city dedicated to the business of showcasing art.

arts.i was opened by an Indian investment firm in October 2008. The gallery also has a shop, which includes amusing knickknacks from local graphic designers.

CMYK is located in the city's biggest cultural hub. Visitors to the bookstore can fill a cup from the drip coffeemaker, pull up a Pantone colour-printed Seletti chair and browse through the shop's specialty: coffee-table books on art, architecture and photography.

Mocha Arthouse is in one of the city's many brand-new malls, where the owners are able to bring art to people who were not expecting it, people who would not normally walk into a gallery.

Boxdesign, a Delhi studio that curates the artwork at Mocha, digs up digital art and photography. You can buy almost everything here.

O Palacio houses a four-room gallery, a series of boutiques and a restaurant, Casa Portuguesa, all overlooking a pretty pebbled courtyard.

Zaza Home is home to a little gallery, and a Mediterranean-style restaurant next door.

And then there's the oldest one of its time, Triveni Kala Sangam, a gallery and theater designed by Joseph Allen Stein, a Nebraska native, during Delhi's fling with modernism in the '50s and '60s. Ever since then it's been impossible to dislodge the city's older art aficionados from the outdoor tea terrace in winter. The work on display is rarely avant-garde, but the place is a stodgily charming reminder of a time in Delhi when art was truly just art.



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Responsible Tourism



The Chambal Conservation Foundation

The Chambal Conservation Foundation was established in 1999, by Kunwar Ram Pratap Singh, an engineer from IIT Roorkee, and his wife Anu Dhillon Singh, an environmental scientist from London University. The main objective was to bring sustainable development initiatives to the long neglected Chambal Valley and the National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS).

The Chambal Safari, an eco-tourism venture, is one such initiative, which has helped place the Chambal Valley on the birding map of Northern India, and brought recognition for its unique habitat and environs. The Foundation uses part of the proceeds from the Chambal Safari to fund awareness campaigns, conservation projects, patrolling and anti-poaching operations, reforestation drives, check-dams, as well as sourcing expertise to create sustainable and self-sustaining projects, that lead to an improvement in the lives of the local populace, whilst building support for the natural beauty and resources of the valley.

Chambal Safari Lodge lies south east of Agra and is just an hour's drive away. It can be easily combined with the Golden Triangle to give a meaningful divergence from the cultural triangle. It is set in an oasis of calm and tranquillity nestling in the midst of a sprawling 35 acre heritage plantation, surrounded by family owned farmland. The plantation is part of a much larger area that was used by the Zamindars (feudal Chieftains) of Jarar to conduct their annual cattle fair (Mela).

After decades of neglect, the Mela Kothi and its grounds have been lovingly restored. Ram Pratap Singh and his wife Anu have turned their inheritance into a charming eco-lodge, where their nine year old son Sumer is the 'chief naturalist-in-charge'!

The Lodge offers 12 room; 2 luxurious bedrooms in the main building, eight cottages and two more rooms in the erstwhile stables. A cosy sitting-room and library and numerous interesting verandahs and courtyards to read, reflect and relax.

Activities that can be done while staying here include the River Safari to see the Gharial, magar and River Dolphins, Nature Walks, Village walks, Camel Safari to see the Ater Fort, Jeep safari to visit the Bateshwar Temples and visit the famous Saras Crane Conservation area and the Patna Bird sanctuary.

They have placed the hitherto unknown Chambal valley on to the international birding and wild-life map; sharing its wonders with the world and guaranteeing its continued protection. This effort has given a much required boost not only to the resource conservation programme of the Sanctuary and its environs, but has also created a wellspring of goodwill amongst the local populace.



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Destination Insider



Dear Friends,

I have just returned back after spending three weeks in South India, covering parts of Tamil Nadu and then Cochin before my week long sojourn in the Backwaters which is such a mind-boggling mix of a variety of religion, faith and beliefs; all co-existing in perfect harmony.

Starting my adventure from Northwestern Tamil Nadu, I appreciated the hospitality of some prominent families of the Kongu Vellala Gounder community, one of the earliest inhabitants of South India, agriculture being their main source of survival.. They are friends of Kuoni and run wonderful Farmstays where your clients can see India in the quintessence of her rural charms and be as close to nature as is possible.

I woke up to the sound of a gurgling stream every morning, had an alfresco bath in a private waterfall fed by a natural stream from the forests in the majestic hills not so far away. All this, merely 3 hrs away from the temple town of Madurai. The Destination Knowledge Centre is preparing an itinerary that will include the Good Old Farm Life of the Kongu Vellala Gounders complete with organic vegetable gardens, fruits, crops, dairy farms, poultry and horses. We will keep you posted.

In Cochin it was heartening to see Kerala sprucing up its image as a tourist friendly destination. Sporting blue uniforms instead of the usual khakis, policemen at Cochin's International Tourism police station, the first of its kind in India, will now guide tourists regarding registering of complaints, securing a new passport if necessary and providing help to renew visas. I met Anthony while he was on a round in Matancherry to ensure that tourists were having a hassle free time. My guide was asked to produce his license while Anthony wished me a good time in Kerala. Anthony is proud of what he does and does it straight from the heart. Great going officer!! Hope you stay this way. The Police Station also has an interesting museum that showcases the history of the police force in Kerala, with uniforms, armory and rank insignia in the force, right from the colonial period to the present, put on display. It is a neatly managed one which I would recommend your clients to visit. Cochin's International Tourism Police Station was inaugurated on February 28, 2010.

"The success of a destination depends on such locals who do things with their heart", says Stephane Junca, Director, Asia Pacific of Relais and Chateaux. My most gracious host Joerg and Txuku of Malabar House were kind enough to organize a tête-à-tête with Stephane despite his very busy schedule.

[To read the interview, please click here.](#)

Kuntil Baruwa



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Impression



From: PHXKFB

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 10:39 PM

To: Bhandari, Ravindra

Subject: Thank you very much!

Dear Ravi,

Thank you so much for wonderful days in India. The overland tour to Taj Mahal was fantastic!!! Everything was perfectly organized. Thank you for the dinner in Mumbai and also for the Polo shirt from Jaipur to Thomas. He was very happy and says thank you!

Ravi can you please say hello and thank you very much to all your colleagues in Chennai, Delhi, Agra/Taj Mahal, Jaipur, Kochi and Mumbai.

Please also tell the four guides on the overland tour that they did a super job!

We are looking forward to seeing you next year in New Mangalore (06.04.11) and Mumbai (08.04.11).

Best regards,
Anne (from Norway)

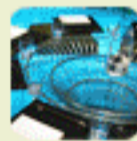
Greetings from Arno, Bernd and Thomas

Anne Klyve Olsen
Kreuzfahrtberaterin
MS Albatros



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Fairs and Festival



Nehru Trophy Boat Race, Alappuzha 14th Aug 2010

Nehru Trophy Boat Race is an annual event which is organized at the Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha, Kerala. It is held every year on the second Saturday of August. The first boat race on the Punnamada Lake was held way back in 1952 to honour late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India's visit to Alappuzha. He himself awarded the trophy of the boat race to the winners and from that time onwards, the trophy has been named as the "Nehru Trophy". One of the most famous boat races of Kerala, Nehru Trophy Boat Race promotes unity and fraternity among people.

Most of the Festival dates are decided by Solar / Lunar calendars practiced in India, due to which the dates are subject to change. You may plan some special departure based on these festivals.

For any assistance please contact us.